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C O N F I D E N T I A L HANOI 000552

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/11/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [UNSC](#) [BM](#) [VM](#)
SUBJECT: GVN OPPOSES DISCUSSION OF HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AT
UNSC

REF: STATE 49813

Classified By: Political Counselor Brian Aggeler.
Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) On May 12, poloff discussed reftel points about the French UNSC resolution on Burma with MFA IO Department UN Section Chief Phan Mai Dung. Dung was unaware of a possible Security Council meeting on May 12 to discuss the French proposal. He said the GVN does not consider the UN Security Council to be an appropriate forum to discuss humanitarian issues such as cyclone relief efforts. Dung referred to UNSC expert-level discussions last week at which China, Russia and South Africa opposed Security Council action and suggested an alternative forum such as ECOSOC. He added that the GVN understands the need to act quickly and mentioned the GVN decision to provide disaster assistance to Burma.
MICHALAK